

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00632 040924Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1612

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO PO

SUBJ: "LOCKED GATE" AND POSSIBLE RIGHTIST COUP

REFS: STATE 024054; LISBON 626

1. MY PRINCIPAL CONCERN WITH NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE" AND LISBON PORT CALL IS ONE I DID NOT WISH TO PUT IN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED CABLE.

2. IT RELATES NOT TO POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST-INSPIRED VIOLENCE, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD OCCUR, BUT TO POSSIBLE ACTION BY ANTI-COMMUNIST MILITARY GROUPS. SEE DAO IR 6 879 0028 75.

3. AARMA'S CONTACT HAS CONSISTENTLY ASKED ABOUT TIMING OF NATO EXERCISE, AND HAS SPECIFICALLY INQUIRED ABOUT EVACUATION BY US SHIPS. WHILE WE ARE DISCOURAGING HIM FROM EXPECTING ANY USG ASSISTANCE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE AND HIS FRIENDS MIGHT DO.

4. I DO NOT HAVE TO TELL THE DEPARTMENT WHAT THE RESULTS WOULD BE IF WE ARE LINKED IN ANY WAY WITH AN ABORTIVE COUNTER-COUP. NOTHING COULD PLEASE DR. CUNHAL MORE THAN THIS.

5. WHILE I AM CONCERNED OVER THIS POSSIBILITY THE JUDGEMENTS I MADE IN LISBON 626 STILL STAND. IN LIGHT OF STRONG GOP SUPPORT FOR EXERCISE WE WOULD UNDERMINE OUR OWN EFFORTS TO
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STRENGTHEN MODERATES AND KEEP PORTUGAL IN NATO IF WE WERE

TO BACK OFF NOW. OUR OVERALL POLICY CONCERNS SEEM TO ME
TO OUTWEIGH THE RISKS IN GOING FORWARD.
CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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